

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-10 are currently being prosecuted. Claim 7 remains withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

In the Advisory Action dated April 27, 2004, the Examiner pointed out that the Amendment of April 13, 2004 did not have proper underlining for the added material in claim 1. By way of the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicants are resubmitting the amended claim set from the Amendment of April 13, 2004, but with the underlining properly in place. Thus, this claim set is an exact duplicate of the one submitted on April 13, 2004, but with the underlining added. Even the claim identifiers (new, currently amended, previously presented) are the same as in the previous Amendment. Thus, this is not intended to be an Amendment, but merely the proper stating of the previous Amendment.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for full consideration. Accordingly, an early  and favorable action is respectively requested.

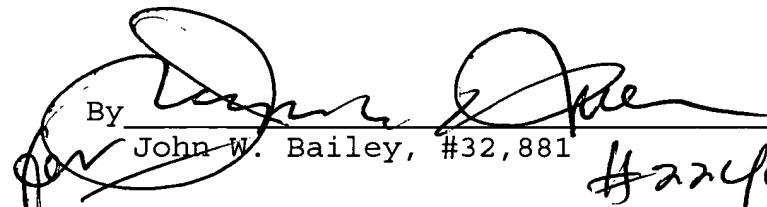
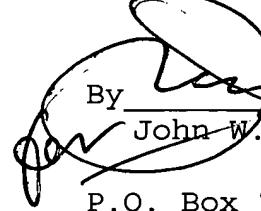
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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